



Community solar in Perth Amboy. Edwin Torres/NJ Governor's Office via Flickr, CC BY-NC 2.0

It's time to transform the way we produce and consume energy

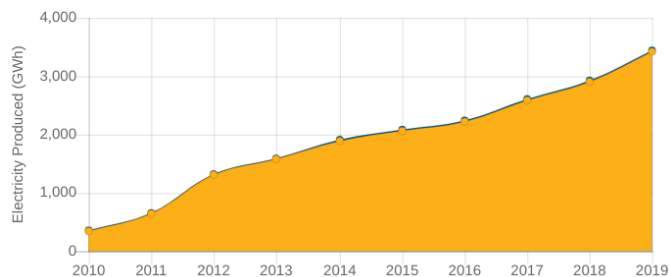
We have a choice. We can continue powering our lives by burning fossil fuels, destroying wild places, clean water, our health and the climate. Or, we can decide to take a different path.

Today, we can harness clean, abundant energy from the sun and wind more efficiently -- and cheaply -- than ever before, tapping into power that doesn't pollute or make us sick. Yet, New Jersey still primarily consumes energy derived from fossil fuels. It doesn't make sense to use fracked gas instead of putting solar panels on our roofs; burn oil drilled near beaches instead of harnessing the winds that blow offshore; or rely on dirty and dangerous resources instead of powering our homes, cars and lives with clean, renewable energy. It's time to break free.

We can have healthier communities right now, and a livable future for generations to come—but to get there, we need to transform the way we produce and consume energy.

Our vision: 100 percent renewable energy

In a future run on 100 percent renewable energy, everything we need power for in our lives-- our lights, our chargers, our refrigerators, our heating and cooling, our transportation -- would run on energy sources that don't pollute our air and water or harm the climate. That means a healthier, cleaner and safer future.



Renewable energy progress in New Jersey, 2010 to 2019:

New Jersey saw a 10-fold or 3,075 GWh increase in annual solar generation (shown in yellow above) and a 2-fold or 9 GWh increase in annual wind generation (shown in blue above).

Renewable energy is ready for primetime

Renewable energy has reached a tipping point in the U.S. and here in New Jersey, enabling New Jerseyans to envision a future powered by 100 percent renewable energy. America produces almost four times as much renewable electricity from the sun and wind as it did in 2010. Right here in New Jersey, our solar energy generation has increased 10-fold and our wind power production has doubled since 2010.

Strong state policies -- including our ambitious Renewable Portfolio Standards and targets for solar energy -- in combination with plummeting prices and advancements in clean energy technologies, have helped drive New Jersey toward clean, renewable energy already. But, we've only just begun to tap our vast clean energy potential.

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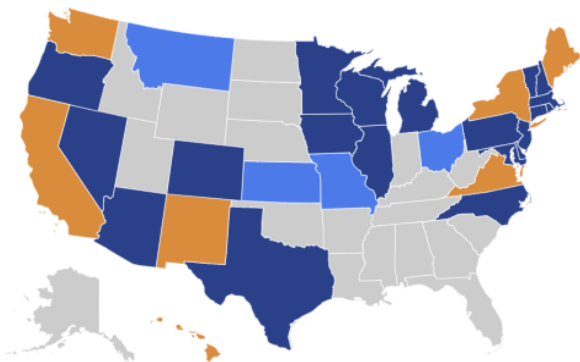




New Jersey should commit to 100 percent renewable energy

While clean, renewable energy is growing rapidly, fully replacing fossil fuels will require additional commitment and action. A legislative commitment to 100 percent renewable energy, including timely targets and benchmarks, can act as an enforceable tool to help us make the transition. Seven states have already passed such commitments to 100 percent clean or renewable electricity, and New Jersey should join their ranks.

Environment New Jersey is advocating for a statewide commitment to 100 percent renewable electricity by 2035, and supports the reintroduction of 2018 Senate Bill 1405 including that statewide target.



- states with renewable energy requirements.
- states that have increased their goals.
- states that have committed to 100%.



A growing movement

Just as a growing number of states are setting their sights on 100 percent renewable energy, so are cities, towns and leading institutions. With more than 170 cities and towns across the country -- including New Brunswick -- already on board, one in three Americans now lives in a community committed to 100 percent clean or renewable power. And businesses like New Jersey's Johnson & Johnson, utilities and college campuses are taking action too. At Rutgers University, NJPIRG Students are calling for a 100 percent renewable campus by 2030.

100 percent renewable commitments are taking off because it's an idea everyone can get behind. Most Americans support a commitment to 100 percent renewable energy. Clean energy technologies like solar enjoy broad support across party lines. And, most importantly, New Jerseyans want a renewable energy future.

Now is the time to build on that momentum and public support, and pass legislation committing to 100 percent renewable electricity for a cleaner, healthier New Jersey.

To learn more about our campaign and for additional resources, visit:

EnvironmentNewJersey.org/feature/nje/100-renewable

